

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10

NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01 L-03 PM-05 SS-15 /114 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4658

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PLAB ILO SZ

SUBJ: SWISS LABOR VIEWS ON US POSITION TOWARD ILO

REF: (A) STATE 159532 AND (B) CFR NO. 27 JUL 6, 1977

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF DISCUSSED 1977 INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC) WITH JEAN CLIVAZ, SWISS LABOR DELEGATE TO ILO. CLIVAZ SAID HE SHARED U S DISAPPOINTMENT ON ILC OUTCOME. HOWEVER, HE URGED THAT US POSTPONE DECISION ON LEAVING ILO FOR ANOTHER YEAR. CLIVAZ EXPANDED ON THESE VIEWS IN JULY TRADE UNION NEWSLETTER, NOTING TRAGIC IMPACT THAT US DEPARTURE COULD HAVE ON ILO ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. CHIVAZ TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE SHARED U S DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT JUNE ILC. HE STRESSED DIFFICULTY HE ENCOUNTERED IN WORKING WITH SOME THIRD COUNTRY DELEGATES IN COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE. REGARDING US NOTICE TO LEAVE ILO, CLIVAZ NOTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SOME INDUSTRIALIZED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT US POSITION, SAID THEY VIEWED US NOTICE AS ULTIMATUM

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THAT MAY HAVE BEEN COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. CLIVAZ ADDED THAT SOME DELEGATES WITH WHOM HE HAD DISCUSSED US DEPARTURE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US COULD BE PERSUADED TO POSTPONE FINAL DECISION ON LEAVING FOR ANOTHER YEAR, WHICH HE ALSO FELT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE DECISION IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. CLIVAZ EXPANDED ON THESE VIEWS IN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED IN JULY NEWSLETTER OF SWISS FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. HE REPORTED THAT NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF CONFERENCE (REF B) RESULTED FROM ACTION BY EAST EUROPEANS AND SOME THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, AND THAT FINAL DECISION ON REFORM OF STRUCTURE WAS POSTPONED TO 1978, BEFORE EXPIRATION OF US NOTICE TO LEAVE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT US SHOULD VIEW RESOLUTION ON TRIPARTITISM, ESPECIALLY STATEMENT REGARDING POLITICAL ISSUES OUTSIDE COMPETENCE OF ILO, AS POSITIVE STEP. CLIVAZ ALSO STATED THAT U S SHOULD NOT TAKE LIGHTLY FACT THAT WORKING GROUP OF COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH SPECIAL TASK (I.E., ALSO CONSIDER US PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE 17 OF CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS) AND TO REPORT TO 1978 CONFERENCE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE POSITIVE FACTORS SHOULD ENABLE US TO REMAIN IN ILO, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY TO AWAIT WORKING GROUP REPORT.

4. SUMMING UP SWISS LABOR'S VIEW OF US DEPARTURE FROM ILO, CLIVAZ STRESSED IN EDITORIAL THAT DEPARTURE OF LARGEST INDUSTRIAL NATION WOULD LEAVE ENORMOUS GAP IN ILO AND POSSIBLY LEAD TO DEPARTURE OF OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. INTERNATIONAL LABOR OFFICE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO REDUCE ITS OPERATIONS, BECAUSE UNITED STATES PROVIDES 25 PERCENT OF FUNDS, WITH SERIOUS IMPACT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON LABOR MOVEMENT. HE SAID THIS EXPLAINS WHY SWISS FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS STRONGLY HOPES PRESENT CRISIS CAN BE OVERCOME DURING NEXT 12 MONTHS.

5. CLIVAZ ALSO EMPHASIZED IN EDITORIAL THAT US DESIRE TO BRING ABOUT RIGOROUS EXAMINATION OF PROBLEMS SUBMITTED TO ILO IS JUSTIFIED AND SHARED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS. HOWEVER, MANNER IN WHICH US CHOSE TO BROACH THIS ISSUE WAS PERHAPS NOT BEST, GIVEN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SENSITIVITIES. CLIVAZ SAID IT PROVOKED STRONG REACTIONS ON PART OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHO CONSIDERED NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL AS INTOLERABLE MEANS OF PRESSURE, WHICH HE NOTED WAS NOT US DESIRE. DAVIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, MEMBERSHIP, POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TAGS: ELAB, SZ, ILO
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